

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2573
Morris Howell House
42 Overbrook Road
Baltimore, Baltimore County
1876
Private

The Morris Howell House was constructed in 1876 after Morris Howell purchased eleven acres of land from his father, Darius C. Howell, who had owned the land at least since the 1860s. The dwelling is representative of high-style Queen Anne houses constructed in some of the larger towns of Baltimore County and dates to a late 19th century period of growth in and around the town of Catonsville. In 1900, Baltimore City Mayor William T. Malster owned the property. By 1915, the twelve-acre lot included the dwelling, which was called Overbrook and occupied by Thomas McHugh, and one outbuilding. The atlas indicates that further development of the surrounding landscape had occurred over the previous three decades, and several turn-of-the-20th-century estates dotted the landscape east of Catonsville. Since the mid-1900s, some of these suburban estates have been subdivided and further developed with residential buildings.

The two-and-a-half-story wood frame dwelling is presently clad in asbestos shingles. The main block is four bays wide with an asphalt-shingled cross gable roof with two intersecting jerkinheaded front gables. The side gables also feature jerkinheads. The cornice is detailed with scroll-sawn brackets and pierced bargeboards on the cross gables. One central interior brick chimney rises from the roof of the main block. A one-story, full-width wraparound porch dominates the façade. The half-hipped porch roof is supported by chamfered wood posts with scroll-sawn corner brackets and a molded fretwork frieze. The façade, or south elevation, features a four-panel double-leaf wood door with three-light sidelights and a three-light transom. Three full-story 4/6 windows with operable louvered wood shutters and four 4/4 windows also pierce the façade. Two pentoid 4/4 windows pierce the fields of the two front gables. The central dormer with a gable roof features one 2/2 window. All façade openings have square-edged wood surrounds. Extending to the north is a two-story ell with a gable roof and an exterior stretcher bond brick chimney. A shorter addition to the ell appears to bridge the space between the original ell and a stone outbuilding, for a half-wall of solid random rubble stone is exposed on the north elevation of this addition. Northwest of the dwelling is a circa 1920 garage. The one-story, one-bay-square wood frame structure is clad in German siding and features a hipped roof clad in standing seam metal.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2573

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Morris Howell House (preferred), Overbrook, Interlaghin
other Howell-Malster House, Hogg-Ray House

2. Location

street and number 42 Overbrook Road not for publication
city, town Baltimore vicinity
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ward Ross Clark and Cindy Beth Clark
street and number 42 Overbrook Road telephone Not Available
city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21228

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 12083 folio 22
city, town Towson tax map 101 tax parcel 1210 tax ID number 2200000373

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2573

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The highly ornamented Queen Anne style Morris Howell House was constructed in 1876. The two-and-a-half-story wood frame dwelling is presently clad in asbestos shingles. The main block is four bays wide with an asphalt-shingled cross gable roof with two intersecting jerkinheaded front gables. The side gables also feature jerkinheads. The cornice is detailed with scroll-sawn brackets and pierced bargeboards on the cross gables. One central interior brick chimney rises from the roof of the main block. A one-story, full-width wraparound porch dominates the façade. The half-hipped porch roof is supported by chamfered wood posts with scroll-sawn corner brackets and a molded fretwork frieze. The façade, or south elevation, features a four-panel double-leaf wood door with three-light sidelights and a three-light transom. Three full-story 4/6 windows with operable louvered wood shutters and four 4/4 windows also pierce the façade. Two pentoid 4/4 windows pierce the fields of the two front gables. The central dormer with a gable roof features one 2/2 window. All façade openings have square-edged wood surrounds. Extending to the north is a two-story ell with a gable roof and an exterior stretcher bond brick chimney. A shorter addition to the ell appears to bridge the space between the original ell and a stone outbuilding, for a half-wall of solid random rubble stone is exposed on the north elevation of this addition.

Northwest of the dwelling is a circa 1920 garage. The one-story, one-bay-square wood frame structure is clad in German siding and features a hipped roof clad in standing seam metal. The façade is pierced by one vehicular entry with a paneled double-leaf wood door with a square-edged wood surround.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2573

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1876-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1876

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Morris Howell House was constructed in 1876 after Morris Howell purchased eleven acres of land from his father, Darius C. Howell.¹ The dwelling is representative of high-style Queen Anne houses constructed in some of the larger towns of Baltimore County and dates to a late 19th century period of growth in and around the town of Catonsville. The 1850 county atlas reveals that Catonsville was already a densely developed and populated community by mid-century. The land on which the Morris Howell House was erected appears to have belonged to "Peter Haws."² By the 1860s, this land belonged to Darius C. Howell, who sold eleven acres to his son, Morris, while retaining acreage along Edmondson Avenue to the north of the extant resource. Between 1876 and 1877, the Queen Anne style Morris Howell House was constructed.³ In 1900, Baltimore City Mayor William T. Malster owned the property. By 1915, the twelve-acre lot included the dwelling, which was called Overbrook and occupied by Thomas McHugh, and one outbuilding. The atlas indicates that further development of the surrounding landscape had occurred over the previous three decades, and several turn-of-the-20th-century estates dotted the landscape east of Catonsville.⁴ Since the mid-1900s, some of these suburban estates have been subdivided and further developed with residential buildings.

The Morris Howell House was constructed at the height of Catonsville's late 19th century settlement. The fully developed Queen Anne form and elements suggest that the builder was a member of the community's upper middle class. The eclectic Queen Anne movement focused on the free form, melding elements of the Classical, Tudor, and Flemish styles of architecture.⁵ Although high style buildings featured a variety of roof forms, projecting oriel bays, colored glass windows and turrets, the style also featured detailed porches, cut-out brackets designs, patterned shingles and spindles⁶. In America, the style was greatly popularized after the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Craftsmen expressed a wide range of creativity through decorative

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

² J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850); the name on the atlas is difficult to read, and might spell "Howell." Deed research would help to ascertain the mid-19th century ownership of the property on which the Morris Howell House was eventually constructed.

³ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

⁴ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Hopkins, 1915).

⁵ Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. (New York, NY: Holt and Co., Inc, 1994). pp. 154-155.

⁶ McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988), pp. 263-214.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2573

Name Morris Howell House, 42 Overbrook Road, Baltimore, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

woodworking exploration. Through the extensive use of such innovative woodworking techniques, the Morris Howell House is representative of the highly popular Queen Anne style and helps to signify the status of the owners.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2573

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Baltimore West Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1876, the Morris Howell House has been associated with the 1.209 acres of land known as tax parcel 1210 of map 101 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 30, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

BA-2742
 GLYNDAFF
 5741-5743 EDMONDSON
 AVENUE
 BALTIMORE, BALTIMORE COUNTY

17°30"

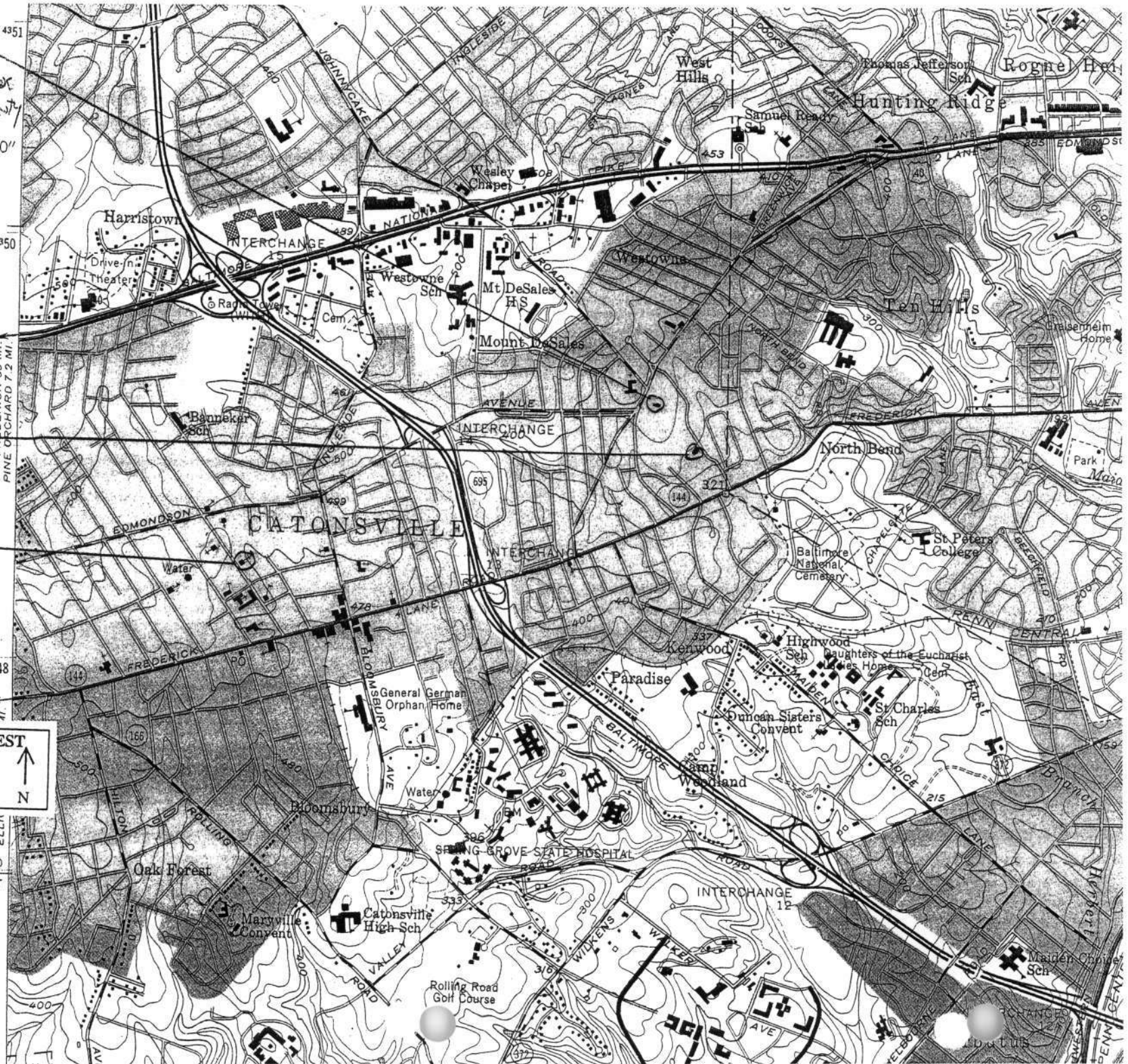
FREDERICK 38 MI.
 PINE ORCHARD 7.2 MI.

BA-2573
 42 OVERBROOK
 CATONSVILLE
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

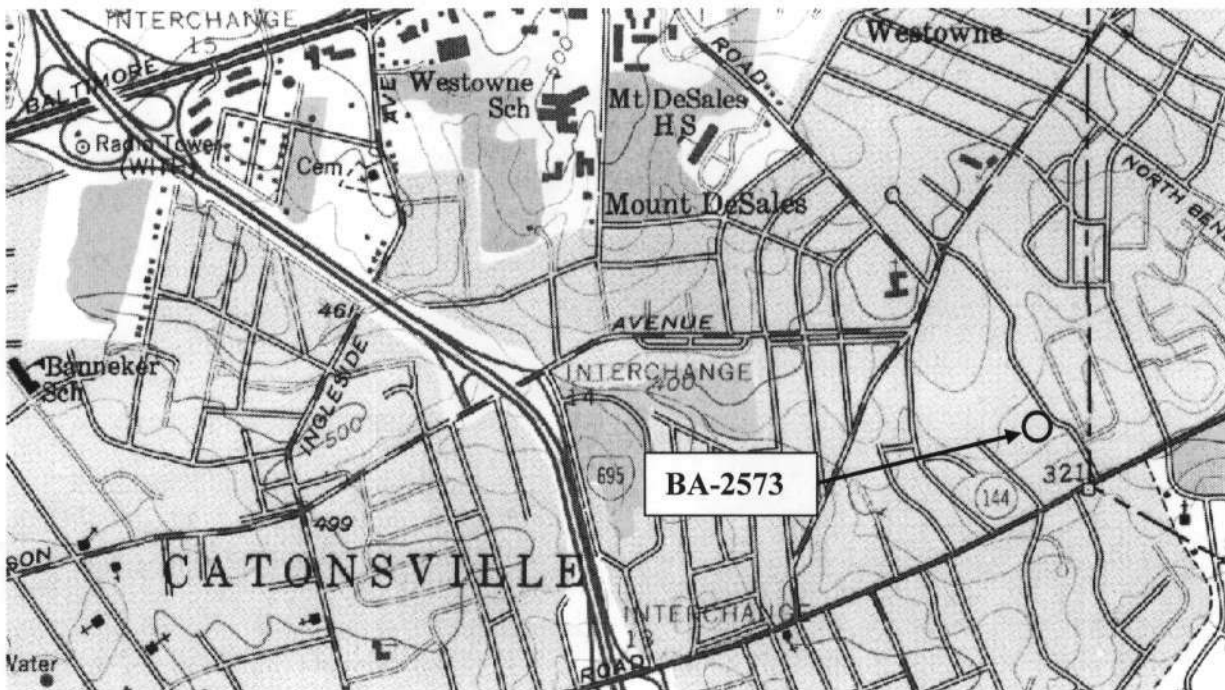
BA-2646
 48 1/2 WINTERS LANE
 CATONSVILLE
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

USGS Quad: BALTIMORE WEST
 Scale: 1:24,000
 N

520 000
 FEET



BA-2573
 Morris Howell House
 42 Overbrook Road, Catonsville
 Baltimore West quadrangle



Mapquest aerial photo, c. 2007

Tax Map 101, p. 1210





BA 2573

42 OVERBROOK ROAD, BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SE CORNER

1 of 4



BA-2573

42 OVERBROOK ROAD, BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SW CORNER

2 of 4



BA-2573

42 OVERBROOK ROAD, BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPD

N ELEVATION

3 of 4



BA-2573

42 OVERBROOK ROAD, BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

GARAGE

4 of 4